

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10676 281636Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06

OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 FRB-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10676

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, UN, IN

SUBJ: INDIAN VIEWS ON CIEC FOLLOWUP; CONTINUED

ENERGY DIALOGUE

1. EMBOFF REVIEWED RESULTS OF CIEC AND PROSPECTS FOR FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS WITH ARUNDHATI GHOSH, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER HANDLING ALL MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. GHOSH SAID SHE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS ON G-27 CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA BUT WAS NOT ABLE TO STATE G-27 OR G-77 POSITIONS. GOI VIEWS WERE SETTLED AS OF NOW, HOWEVER, AND CENTERED ON (1) A SHORT AND UNEVENTFUL RESUMED 31ST UNGA, (2) EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF THE CIEC COMMISSIONS' REPORTS DURING THE 32ND UNGA SESSION, (3) ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENERGY FORUM NOT UNDER THE UNGA BUT IN THE UN SYSTEM, AND (4) NO NEW "OVERVIEW" MECHANISM.

2. ACCORDING TO SHOSH, RESUMED 31ST SESSION WILL BE TOO SHORT TO PRMIT REVIEW OF CIEC RESULTS BY UNGA. CIEC COMMUNIQUE WAS "POLITICAL" DOCUMENT PUT TOGETHER BY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 10676 281636Z

SENIOR OFFICIALS AFTER MINISTERS' EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENTS HAD BROKEN DOWN. AS SUCH, COMMUNIQUE WAS NOT AMENABLE TO REVIEW OR EVALUATION AND WORK OF GA WOULD HAVE TO FOCUS ON ITS LENGTHY ANNEX CONTAINING CIEC COMMISSION REPORTS. HERE AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT WERE CLEARLY DELINEATED AND EVALUATION OF PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS COULD BE MADE.

3. GHOSH FORESAW THIS EXTENSIVE REVIEW BEING CONDUCTED IN FRAMEWORK OF UNGA SECOND COMMITTEE DURING 32ND SESSION. COMMITTEE DID NOT HAVE TO TREAT SUBJECT ROUTINELY. MINISTERS OR SENIOR OFFICIALS COULD PARTICIPATE IN COMMITTEE WORK BY GIVING AGENDA ITEM PRIORITY EARLY IN SESSION. DETAILED WORK WOULD BE DONE BY SUB-GROUP SPUN OFF BY COMMITTEE WHICH COULD OPERATE AT ANY LEVEL DESIRED BY PARTICIPANTS.

4. ONLY OPERATIONAL ROLE FOR UNGA, ACCORDING TO GHOSH, WAS TO "ASSIGN" THE MULTITUDE OF TOPICS TREATED IN CIEC TO OTHER INSTITUTIONAL FORUMS. SOME OF THESE ASSIGNMENTS WOULD BE EASY; OTHERS WOULD BE CONTENTIOUS, E.G., THE ROLE OF UNCTAD IN WORK ON COMPENSATORY FINANCING. BUT THE ONE CRITICAL QUESTION BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE THE CHOICE OF THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PURSUIT OF THE ENERGY DIALOGUE. THIS WAS A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE TO THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAD "REALLY LOST" WHEN THE G-8 HAD GIVEN UP ON THIS ISSUE IN PARIS. (ACCORDING TO GHOSH, THE OIL-IMPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD LOST THIS ISSUE AT CIEC BECAUSE OF THEIR SMALL NUMBERS: THE PRESSURES ON PATTERSON OF JAMAICA HAD BEEN "ALMOST TOO MUCH TO BEAR.") FOR INDIA THE IDEAL FORUM WOULD BE ONE IN THE UN SYSTEM BUT NOT TIED TO THE GENERAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 10676 281636Z

ASSEMBLY. A UN CONNECTION WAS NECESSARY TO ENSURE ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION FOR THE OIL-IMPORTING LDCS IN THE FUTURE.

5. INDIA SAW NO NEED FOR A NEW INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE IN THE UN TO PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE CONTINUING NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. BOTH ECOSOC AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD THIS ROLE UNDER THE CHARTER AND COULD ACT ON IT IF GOVERNMENTS REALLY SO WANTED. GHOSH THOUGHT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO MAKE THE UN RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE MORE COMPLICATED BY INTRODUCING THIS POST-CIEC ELEMENT.

6. LDC DEBT BURDEN: GHOSH SAID THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD NOT TAKE UP THE DEBT QUESTION IN SUBSTANCE BECAUSE OF THE IMMINENCE OF THE UNCTAD MINISTERIAL MEETING IN JANUARY.

7. COMMENT: GHOSH'S EXPOSITION OF THE GOI POSITION CASTS IN SHARP RELIEF ITS CONCERN FOR FURTHER INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE ENERGY/OIL QUESTION IN THE WAKE OF CIEC. SHE AND OTHER OFFICIALS HAD

IDENTIFIED THIS IN MARCH AS ONE OF THE KEY AREAS FOR INDIA AS CIEC MOVED TOWARDS ITS CONCLUSION, AND HER TONE WAS ALMOST BITTER AS SHE DESCRIBED THE INDIAN DELEGATION'S FRUSTRATED EFFORTS AT PARIS. FINANCE MINISTER PATEL'S COMMENT TO DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER THAT SEVERAL FORUMS ALREADY EXISTED UNDER THE UN FOR A BROAD CIEC FOLLOWUP WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM THAT THE GOI SEES NO NEED TO SUBSUME ENERGY UNDER BROADER NORTH-SOUTH TALKS.

8. ON THE DEBT QUESTION, INDIA'S STRONG EXPORT PERFORMANCE, LARGE FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES AND GOOD DEBT SERVICE SITUATION MAY PARTLY EXPLAIN THE GOI'S DISINTEREST IN MAKING THIS A MAJOR ISSUE AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NEW DE 10676 281636Z

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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